

The Sun.

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 THE SUN, New York City.

A Department of Silence.

MR. JAMES C. BAYLES, the new President of the Health Department of this city, thinks his official subordination is talk too much. Accordingly he has forbidden them from giving information to representatives of the press on any subject connected with the work, records, or business of the Health Department.

Is Mr. BAYLES an American or a Russian? Does he know he is in New York, or think he is in St. Petersburg? It might be very well to caution the subordinate officers of the department against giving inaccurate news to the reporters, but why the public journals should be deprived of all intelligence concerning the operations of the Board of Health, except such as the Commissioners or Secretary may choose to furnish, is not easy to understand.

"Matters of public interest," says Mr. BAYLES, in his order on this subject, "will be communicated to the Commissioners, the Secretary, and will be given out by them, or by the Sanitary Superintendent, or proper publication." Indeed! We should like to know whether the Health Department does anything that is not proper for publication.

If not, why do the Commissioners thus constitute themselves and their Secretary a sort of Secret Service Censorship Bureau?

The weather in this country is too warm for such an institution. It would flourish better in a Siberian climate.

Whether Mayor HERRITT finds an angel for President of the Park Board or not, he has found an autocrat for President of the Board of Health.

Intemperance at Syracuse.

It is impossible not to respect the sincerity, earnestness, and pluck of the New York Prohibitionists, but we must respectfully yet diametrically dissent from their proposition to disfranchise the advocates of high license, low license, and local option. Nor would we be willing to see even the Free Rummies, if such there are, deprived of the ballot. The Prohibitionists at Syracuse declare in favor of disfranchising everybody who is not a Prohibitionist. We move that the fourth and fifth resolutions of the Syracuse platform be read again:

"(4) That to vote for license or tax on liquor traffic is to accept, in the name of the State, a bribe from the State's worst enemy, and that he who votes for a corrupt and corrupting system for the revenue it yields is as guilty of corrupting the State as he who sells his vote to a corrupt candidate."

"(5) That the purity and the value of ballots demands disfranchisement for him who sells a vote, and also for him who buys it."

To be sure, the Prohibitionists are in favor of giving to women the ballots they would take away from the criminals who vote for license. The resolution in favor of women suffrage does not specifically except non-Prohibitionist women. Apparently the makers of the Syracuse platform believe that all women of voting age are Prohibitionists.

Can the Prohibitionist leaders put their hands upon their hearts and solemnly avow that they believe the Rev. Dr. HOWARD has been guilty of crime against the State and ought to be disfranchised? Do they really believe that Dr. CROENY, in advocating high license, is as much of a criminal as the man who is guilty of bribery? It seems clear from the position of the fifth resolution that it is meant to clinch the fourth and propose disfranchisement as a punishment for voting against prohibition. The scheme is startling, but brilliant. Whenever a majority of the voters are disfranchised, prohibition will triumph. Truly a bold and audacious scheme.

The clergyman and other Bible scholars at Syracuse may not find in the Scriptures any commendation in favor of prohibition. They seem to have been unable to find the commandment prohibiting everybody, Prohibitionists included, from bearing false witness against his neighbor.

To classify your neighbor with criminals because he doesn't believe in intemperance is to bear false witness against him. Votes are not to be made by such crazy charges.

The Rule of the Dakotas.

The little city of New Ulm, Minnesota, has just celebrated the quarter centennial of the most remarkable event in her history. Twenty-five years ago last Tuesday five hundred Sioux Indians made their last desperate attack upon the town. All that day and part of the next the battle raged. More than the little band of white defenders were killed, and the Indians seemed on the point of driving all before them. The threatened massacre and pillage were, however, averted. The baffled Indians wearily disappeared behind the bluff. The town, with its precious burden of women and children, was saved, though a third of the houses were in ashes and sixty of the brave defenders were dead or wounded.

"We shall winter our squaws near St. Paul," said LITTLE CROW to his braves soon after the first gun in the great Sioux uprising of 1862. The prediction was fulfilled, though not in a way that gave any pleasure to the wily leader of the warriors. The battles of that bloody autumn resulted in the forced retreat into Dakota of all the braves who dared not surrender. Fifteen hundred women and children fell into the hands of the whites. No one who saw it will ever forget the mournful procession that trudged down the Minnesota valley in the bleak days of early winter to the prison camp at Fort Snelling. Bitterly as they hated the treacherous Dakotas whom they had known and fed and befriended for years, the women who gazed upon the woe-begone faces of those hundreds of bereaved squaws and heard the piteous wailings of their half-frozen children were haunted by the memory for months.

Those were the darkest days of our national struggle, but Minnesotians for the time almost forgot their boys in the South. Without the slightest premonition, the entire southwestern frontier burst into flame. In two weeks nearly eight hundred settlers became victims of the scalping knife and tomahawk. The greatest of Indian wars had begun, and in two years it took the lives of over twelve hundred white people and \$11,000,000 in treasure. For weeks after the outbreak every town heard daily the drums of recruiting parties as they pressed into the service all the able-bodied men and horses. Every road leading toward St. Paul streamed with fugitives from the frontier. One bold party of Indians penetrated within twenty miles of the State capital.

The chief incidents of that war have never been adequately described. The sufferings of the 300 women and children who for many weeks were helpless prisoners while their

fendish captors wrangled daily over the question of putting them at once to death; the heroism of friendly OTHER DAY, who collected some fifty whites and through a night illuminated by the light from burning houses plotted them to a place of safety; the hanging on one scaffold of thirty-three braves, all of the captured warriors who were so completely shown to be murderers; the tragic death of LITTLE CROW, who was skulking around the settlements fifty miles from St. Paul, while whole regiments were hunting for him in Dakota; and these many other incidents would supply material for one of the most thrilling narratives of Indian warfare our history has afforded. The little farmer boy who took to brave old LAMPSON the great news that the Indian he had killed near Hutchinson several weeks before was none other than LITTLE CROW, the foremost orator and chieftain among the Dakotas, now lives in this city. The modest old carpenter suddenly found himself famous, and the farm and money the State voted him made him comfortable for life.

One of the most eloquent of the Sioux chiefs was MAKOTUKAMN, who did his utmost to stem the tide of murder. In the midst of the outrage he bitterly upbraided the brave who threatened to kill him as he spoke. "We cannot live without the aid of the white man," he said. "Their preachers tell us the world will come to an end. I tell you now that the end of the world is near at hand for the nation of the Dakotas." His prophecy was soon fulfilled. The four tribes of the great Sioux nation who engaged in this war lost their beautiful reservation extending 150 miles along the Minnesota River. Many of the braves joined SITTING BULL and took part in the CUSTER massacre, but with the fall of that chieftain the Dakotas ceased to exist as an important tribe. The wretched remnants of the once proud nation, who in their happy days possessed a vast and fertile region, are now inmates of three or four camps and military reservations on the upper Missouri, where they are kept under close surveillance.

"When I heard that you had been this war," said STANDING BUCKLE, "I felt that you had cut the throats of all our people." It was the young man who, against the counsel of his elders, began the struggle that sealed the fate of the Dakotas.

How the Apostles Made Money Out of Civil Service Reform.

A correspondent in Brooklyn asks us the following question respecting the early history of civil service reform:

"Is it true that Mr. GEORGE WHELAN, when charged by the Government at the close of the Civil Service Commission under President GRANT to a salary of \$100 a day, and that his bill was cut down one-half, or only \$50 a day allowed him?"

It is not true. Mr. CURTIS made no charge per diem for his services under the act of March 3, 1871. The bills which he did put in were all allowed by the Government and paid. There were four bills presented by Mr. CURTIS in the ten months between July, 1871, and April, 1872, amounting to \$1,300.

The financial disinterestedness of the early Apostles of civil service reform having been doubted, we have caused a careful examination of the Treasury accounts to be made, with a view to settling this important historical question. The facts are worth putting upon record.

During Gen. GRANT's first term the Fathers of Civil Service Reform made their earliest demonstration at Washington. They procured the passage of a law authorizing the President to "prescribe such regulations for the admission of persons into the civil service of the United States as may best promote the efficiency thereof, and ascertain the fitness of each candidate in respect to age, health, character, knowledge, and ability." The same law empowered the President to "employ suitable persons to conduct such inquiries." Congress also appropriated \$10,000 for contingent and incidental expenses. There was no Civil Service Commission instituted by this act of 1871, and no regular salaries were provided for the "suitable persons" to whom the President might entrust the fortunes of the reform. Here were a number of gentlemen, the Apostles of a new faith, actuated by the loftiest patriotism and anxious to try an experiment in the science of government. Congress gave them the chance. It did not insult the purity of their motives by offering them a salary.

The suitable persons whom Gen. GRANT selected at different times were Mr. GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS, Mr. ALEXANDER G. CANTRELL, Editor Joseph MEDILL, Mr. SAMUEL A. WALKER, Mr. E. O. GRAY, Mr. SAMUEL SHELLABARGER, and last but not least, the grandfather of the competitive examination system himself, Mr. DORMAN B. EATON.

As everybody knows, the experiment was a dismal failure. Nothing of practical importance was done toward reforming the civil service. The reformers, however, were not discouraged. They turned their backs on the second term. The experiment and the gentlemen engaged in trying it became the laughing stock of the practical politicians. The reformers have never ceased accusing Gen. GRANT of bad faith in the matter. Their pecuniary supplies were soon cut off by Congress; and we have little doubt that the Mugwump hatred of Mr. BLAINE dates from the day when that gentleman, as Speaker of the House of Representatives, appointed Congressman STEPHEN W. KELLOGG of Connecticut to be Chairman of the House Committee on Civil Service Reform. In short, the principal result of the first general campaign of the civil service reformers was to use up the \$10,000 appropriated in bulk by Congress.

To show just where the money went we transcribe from the Treasury books the following items:

Date	Suitable person	Payment per month	Amount
July 12, 1871.	Geo. W. CURTIS	Services	\$500 00
July 12, 1871.	A. G. CANTRELL	Services	500 00
July 12, 1871.	J. O. MEDILL	Services	500 00
July 12, 1871.	A. WALKER	Services	500 00
July 12, 1871.	E. O. GRAY	Services	500 00
Dec. 18, 1871.	Geo. W. CURTIS	Services	200 00
Dec. 18, 1871.	A. WALKER	Services	200 00
Dec. 18, 1871.	A. G. CANTRELL	Services	200 00
Dec. 27, 1871.	Geo. W. CURTIS	Services	500 00
Dec. 27, 1871.	A. G. CANTRELL	Services	500 00
Dec. 27, 1871.	A. WALKER	Services	500 00
Feb. 5, 1872.	A. WALKER	Services	500 00
April 24, 1872.	Geo. W. CURTIS	Services	300 00
May 2, 1872.	E. O. GRAY	Services	217 89
Nov. 19, 1872.	D. B. EATON	Compensation and mileage	1,125 35
Nov. 14, 1873.	D. B. EATON	Advertising	158 59
Dec. 26, 1873.	E. O. GRAY	Traveling expenses	147 85
Feb. 3, 1874.	D. B. EATON	Compensation and mileage	884 80
May 23, 1874.	D. B. EATON	Compensation and mileage	300 00
May 23, 1874.	SAM. SHELLABARGER	Services	500 00
July 3, 1874.	D. B. EATON	Services and mileage	522 80
July 23, 1874.	SAM. SHELLABARGER	Compensation and mileage	500 00

The vouchers show that in the earlier and purer days of the reform it was the custom of the reformers to draw against the \$10,000 appropriation whenever it suited them, and without much care as to specification. Sometimes it was "services," no period given. Sometimes it was "compensation and mileage." Sometimes it was "services" for a given period. Sometimes the bills came within a week or two of each other. All of the vouchers were loosely and vaguely drawn, without specification of services rendered or details of alleged expenditure. Yet the so-called Commissioners, drawing upon a contingent fund, managed to use up nearly \$10,000. Here is the apportionment of the money:

Commissioner	Amount
GEORGE W. CURTIS	\$1,500 00
ALEXANDER G. CANTRELL	1,300 00
J. O. MEDILL	500 00
D. W. A. WALKER	1,500 00
E. O. GRAY	1,500 00
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If it be said that some of these gentlemen were not true Apostles of the reform, that they were appointed to thwart the purposes of the real friends of Chinese examinations and to profit by the trust fund devoted to a holy cause, we shall have to point to the name at the foot of the list. Will anybody deny that Mr. DORMAN B. EATON is a true Apostle and a real friend of reform? We think not. And yet this gentleman's share amounts to more than one-third of the whole.

Subsequent developments during the second or CLEVELAND era of the reform may throw some light on Mr. EATON's apparently disproportionate demands upon the Treasury. It is now known that this devoted Apostle is thirteenth when hardest at work, and in those desperate early days he must have been very thirsty indeed.

The Three Bay Staters.

The Massachusetts contingent in the Administration seems unable to take a hint. Secretary ENDICOTT in Washington, and Collector SALTONSTALL and Postmaster CORBIN in Boston, are jogging along on the straight civil service reform road, notwithstanding that the Administration has more and more frequently slipping off on the side paths leading to the broad tribulation. The distinguished boulevard of Mugwumpism and Democracy, for days the Massachusetts procession, so far as other members of the Administration are concerned, trudges along in solitude. They refuse to play follow my leader and stick to the track on which they began their journey.

All these three gentlemen, ENDICOTT, SALTONSTALL, and CORBIN, are counted as good men. There has never been a suspicion that they, like their official chief, would take off gates when they were boys. Any one of them would be a consistent and worthy candidate for a straight-out Independent Republican platform in 1888.

But they are slightly out of line with the Administration. They are making a somewhat embarrassing contrast between the Federal policies in Massachusetts and in Indiana and Georgia. It would doubtless be more agreeable to the Administration as it would certainly gratify the Massachusetts Democrats, if they would take an occasional tramp toward the great Democratic road.

The Great London Fire.

The detailed reports of the great fire at WHITELEY, which now come to us, indicate that the fire department of London is far behind our own in effectiveness. As compared with the familiar experience here the engines were slow in getting upon the scene, and though almost the whole effective force of the fire brigade of London was eventually employed, its energies were for hours expended in vain.

The fire broke out at about seven in the evening of Saturday, the 6th of this month. At first it did not seem to be of a threatening character, and if it had been handled with the promptness and intelligence to which we are accustomed from the officers of our own Fire Department, the terrible conflagration, involving the loss of several lives and two or three million dollars' worth of property, would probably have been prevented. Before the firemen and engines had got thoroughly at work the walls suddenly fell out, and the flames obtained such a vent as added momentum to their strength, and it was not until three in the morning of Sunday that the fire brigade had the conflagration under hand.

Yet practically the entire London machinery for putting out fire was on the spot. Capt. SHAW, the chief of the brigade, was there, and he had the experience of perhaps "Parliament will pass the bill drafted by the Board of Works asking for more money to raise the efficiency of the brigade." It certainly seems to be needed, for if another considerable fire had occurred in London on that evening there was no reserve to meet it. The whole Metropolitan Fire Department was engaged in the unsuccessful attempt to put out the flames at WHITELEY.

The most effective work done by the firemen, it seems, was when they used an American ladder, as thus described in the *London Times*:

"One great step which was taken by the firemen was a great amount of property. The American ladder was placed against the wall, and the men entered with the hose, and while a member poured water on the approaching fire the others removed furniture of a most valuable description. The fire, which was crowded at the point of attack, the fire ladders and the severely scorched parts of it, but a stubborn resistance was made to its further advance, and at last met with success."

The fire was evidently the work of incendiaries, but we do not hear that any trace of them has yet been found, though this was the seventh fire which had occurred at WHITELEY within five years, and all under circumstances to excite the gravest suspicion, so that English insurance companies refused to take any risks on the property. It is assumed in London that the incendiaries were business rivals or discontented employees of Mr. WHITELEY, for as his vast establishment grew he absorbed the trade of minor concerns, and the discipline within it of the severest sort. Yet there it seems to end. The fire insurance companies are not concerned to investigate the case, for they had no risks on the property destroyed, and there is no fire marshal whose function it is to ferret out the causes of fires.

At least in the matter of fires we manage things better here in New York than they are managed in London.

Not for Republicans.

It seems that some citizens of Chicago, "of British birth or parentage," went to the trouble to get up a jubilee address to Queen VICTORIA, and it was actually presented to her in person on Monday at Osborne House.

A Mr. COLLIER carried it over, but when he got to London he found, to his chagrin, that jubilee addresses had become a drug in the market. There were hundreds if not thousands of them, and, rather than be bored by listening to them, the Queen had ordered that they should be placed on file, positively refusing to receive them in person. Now, the Englishmen who went about getting signatures to these addresses gladly put themselves to that inconvenience in the expectation that they would enjoy the supreme distinction of kneeling before the Queen and handing her the parchment, and, therefore, when that order came their hopes were blasted. But the Chicago messenger, after persistent effort, succeeded in getting an exception made in his favor, was granted an audience, made his little speech, and handed the docu-

ment in superb Chicago binding to VICTORIA at Osborne House.

The exception was made because the address was from citizens of the United States. And it was remarkable that citizens of a republic, which is a standing protest against monarchical assumptions, should go to all that trouble to render obedience to a Queen. Why should Americans send to VICTORIA felicitations because she has for fifty years maintained her seat on a throne when their whole social and political system is built upon principles in radical opposition to thrones and the social organization which they imply?

We cannot with any consistency congratulate England on the endurance of a monarchy. The time for our congratulations will come when the English republic has been established, and the crown and the sceptre have been stuffed away among the relics of where such theatrical relics of feudalism belong.

Undoubtedly the Chicago people who signed the address to the Queen had some excuse for their tardiness. They were of British birth or parentage, and had not yet imbibed the American spirit. But why should Mayor HERRITT have gone out of his way to attend a jubilee celebration at the Metropolitan Opera House at the time VICTORIA was journeying to Westminster to be extolled as a monarch? He went there and made a speech celebrating her praises as a Queen, as if the American theory of government did not deny monarchical pretensions.

What has the Mayor of New York, or any other republican citizen, to do with Queen VICTORIA? What fitness is there in his standing up to rejoice over the continuance of a monarchy?

A Tremendous Undertaking.

The New York Prohibitionists go even beyond their brethren of Nebraska in declaring for woman suffrage. The woman's rights plank in the Nebraska platform was merely the statement of an abstract proposition; the New York plank is a specific demand. Compare the two resolutions:

Nebraska.	New York.
"Every American citizen."	"That justice and equity of age and sound mind alike demand that the ballot be granted to equal."
"let should be given to women."	"let should be given to women."
"and we demand that the law, without regard to submission by Congress to the several States of a national constitutional amendment."	"and we demand that the law, without regard to submission by Congress to the several States of a national constitutional amendment."

There is evidence here of an organized plan and of a progressive tendency. The Prohibitionist State Conventions still to occur will no doubt take up the demand and carry it still further in the direction of specific distinctions.

But what a tremendous job the Prohibitionists have undertaken! The reform or change which they are now seeking to effect in the American system would be the greatest seen by the world since the doctrine of the equal rights of white men made its way. The enfranchisement of the negroes would be nothing to it in sensational importance or in far-reaching consequences.

Meanwhile, what becomes of prohibition? How small any mere question of sumptuary legislation seems when compared with this movement to extend the suffrage and the right to hold office to a body of citizens nearly, if not quite, equal in number to the present voting population of the United States.

No Workman's Candidate.

THE STATE'S estimate of Mr. HENRY GEORGE's true relation to the workmen is fully corroborated by a labor journal in Connecticut. We have said that Mr. GEORGE's following was animated chiefly by the idea that he was the workman's friend, and not by admiration or approval of his land theory. Our esteemed contemporary, the *Workingmen's Advocate* of New Haven, thus expresses the same view:

"We had placed a high degree of confidence in Henry George and some of his 'condisciples.' Whatever faults we found in the very outset, we were not prepared to find in his position for Mayor of New York, with his one-sided land theory and other views, we did not ascribe to them any importance as long as his honest convictions, his earnest sympathy with labor was unimpaired."

That means that the sentiment last year behind Mr. GEORGE's was the "workman's friend" has been jostled by an impulse to examine his principles, and his following must be increased or diminished according as they are approved or rejected.

As there is no reason for supposing that the daily laborer attaches any special importance to the land doctrine, it seems that Mr. GEORGE must look for other support for it than was given in the canvass of 1886.

Our esteemed contemporary, the *Boston Daily Globe*, discusses an important question with inaccurate information. In commenting upon the *Arkansas Gazette's* list of Democratic Congressmen's preferences for the Presidential nomination, it speaks of:

"the unconstitutional vote of the Hon. FRANK T. CLARK, of Tennessee, who named CLEVELAND and HILL as his ticket."

What unconstitutionality was there about Mr. CLARK's ticket? Gov. HILL lives in New York, and President CLEVELAND, having terminated his citizenship in the Empire State, has become a citizen of the District of Columbia. Unless it is unconstitutional for a citizen of that district to be a candidate on a Presidential ticket, there would be no legal propriety in a ticket of CLEVELAND and HILL. It would be called the "old ticket," of course.

An excellent appointment—ALEXANDER McCURDY of Brooklyn to be United States Fish Commissioner.

Three days in St. Louis, one day in Chicago, Missouri a surely Democratic State, Illinois a State where the Democracy has a fighting chance. Bad great circle politics, Mr. CLEVELAND!

Foreign Notes of Real Interest.

The Glance Hotel Club of Trieste has been dissolved by the Austrian Government because it took part in the restoration of the empire.

Black rot has attacked the grapes in several parts of France, and it is thought the losses will be immense. The German authorities in Alsace-Lorraine have stopped the granting of all hunting licenses to the French residents in the annexed provinces.

To the Soulangers had, the Soulangers pipe, and the Soulangers biters, the French have now added the Soulangers and the Soulangers which the barbers can shave their German customers.

It is to be considered beneath the dignity of a London gentleman to let his town or country house. Now practice has become quite common. Rich Americans' parties have done it.

THE EXECUTIVE TRAVEL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: There is an old adage that every dog has his day. Louisville had hers even before St. Louis, but it is reported that the Tycoon has snubbed the city of the great river by his severity at Oak View. The Tycoon is the great republic. Old Atlanta was "knocked out" by the mishaps of Gen. Joe Johnston and the greater guns of Uncle Sam, but our new Atlanta, thanks to Orator-Editor Grady, she is in for a reformation and promising boom of a great visitation. St. Louis has fairly distanced poor Cincinnati, so that the latter can hardly expect any more even a national nominating convention. Ohio can't have Thurman. During the crisis of our late domestic disturbance, when the old ladies and young maidens were holding prayer meetings, even the little boys were improved into Samuels, and on one occasion the Tycoon, who was then a senator, was advised to "Oh God, the rebels have got Sumter, but, oh God, they can't get Pickens, Amen." St. Louis, with its committee of 50, with its stylish Mayor, and the promised aid of the "Vellied Prophet," obtained the traveler, and so did Kansas City, by making its committee of invitation 100. But there the boom was suspended and embossed mistakes invited instead. As for the Tycoon, he was not enough for St. Louis. Madame must come and the traveler kindly said "she wouldn't let him come without her." Then poor old Memphis put in for a revival, inasmuch as the Chief Executive had conceded that the great growing West and Southwest were entitled to a visitation by the chief, and now to behold and adore him. It was not until the simple receipt of the Post Office Department not only annihilated El Paso, but threatened Kansas City, that the Tycoon was forced to leave St. Louis. The Tycoon, who was not enough for St. Louis, Madame must come and the traveler kindly said "she wouldn't let him come without her." 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